

ART AND DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

In an effort to fill a void now existing in technical training in the creative arts and design, we propose the creation of a two-year division of art and design technology at Randolph Technical Institute, Asheboro, North Carolina. The curriculum of this division will not be in competition with existing schools in our colleges and universities but will enhance and supplement them. It will offer to the student who does not wish, or is not able for many reasons to go the two- or four-year college route the opportunity to receive quality training within the confines of his own state. It will serve as a technical training program for students who will become support personnel for those with more advanced training and experience. It will provide industry with competent trained personnel to fill a wide variety of occupations. It will provide the student who has been neglected, or ignored, the same opportunity for training in art and design as now offered in the many other technical divisions.

The creation of such a technical division will be another step forward in improving the overall conditions of quality in design and the appreciation of "the finer things in life" in North Carolina. It will add to the continuing progress of the Community College System in providing industry with competent trained personnel. Industry, in turn, will be able to advance the public appreciation of good design quality by presenting products that will show a greater awareness and understanding of good design.

A division of art and design technology will be in line with the continuing comprehensive educational program of our state. With the present awakening of art education in public schools, there is an imperative need for a program where students with creative abilities can receive advanced specialized training in their chosen area of design.

It will be necessary to have the advice of people from the industry in order to offer the variety of courses necessary and yet retain the high degree of quality that is imperative. There must also be the realization that while there are a wide range of job opportunities available, that over market saturation would be disastrous for such a program. An advisory committee can advise and keep the Department of Community Colleges apprised of industry needs.

On January 23, 1968 an advisory committee of industrialists, businessmen, and educators from across North Carolina met at Randolph Technical Institute in Asheboro and gave tentative approval to move ahead with planning for two new programs in the art and design technology department. These programs in the early stages of development are: Furniture Design Technology and Photography.